

1-1-1995

UA35/8 The Topper

WKU Veterans Upward Bound

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THE TOPPER

JANUARY 1995

Volume 2 Issue 1

California Dreamin': Math & Science in Arcata

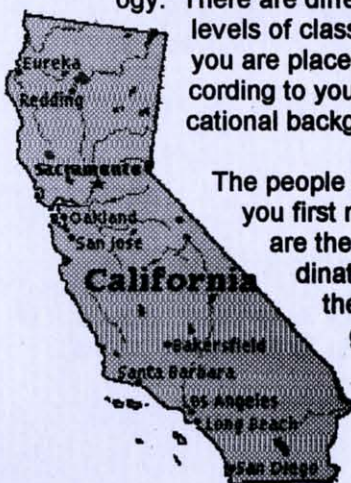
Russell Berry attended the Arcata, CA. math and science initiative last summer.

The math and science initiative that is offered in Arcata, California is a wonderful course for veterans. It is set up for the beginning college student, but make sure you have a good background in mathematics before you apply.

The program requires lots of study, because fourteen week courses are crammed into six weeks. It was described to us as being like taking a drink out of a fire hose. Math classes include algebra, pre-calculus, and calculus, and science classes include chemistry and biology. There are different

levels of classes, so you are placed according to your educational background.

The people that you first meet are the coordinators of the program.



These folks tried their hardest to put everybody at ease, and they were always readily available if any problems arose. After this you will meet the other veterans in the program. Just to give an idea of how varied the peoples are, I met folks from Pennsylvania, Massachusetts, West Virginia, Florida, Ohio, Tennessee, Washington, Montana, Arizona, and California. And even though he wasn't involved in the initiative, I even met a man who sailed to America from Ireland.

Though you might expect to meet some strange folks in California (and you will), these people are very friendly and nice. And you will not believe the sights you will get to see. The tallest trees in the world made the biggest impression on me. You could look up at the sky and not see it for the trees. The ocean views are fabulous. You can sit on the beach or on huge rocks and watch the waves crash all around you. You can see seals and sea otters, and on occasion, you can even see whales. There were plenty more sights to see and though I didn't get around to all of them, I had a great time.

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Student Spotlight: TIM MUCKLER

U.S. Army veteran Tim Muckler will be among the VUB graduates enrolled at Western Kentucky University this spring. Tim is taking advantage of a unique program in golf course management, offered through Western's agriculture department, which he hopes will give him a valid reason to spend his days on the links. Tim also plans to minor in Russian.



When Tim enrolled in Veterans Upward Bound in August, he was still telling stories about Woodstock '94. Clearly, though, he was determined to succeed in school. Tim quickly worked through several VUB math and English texts and personally met with half the university's administrators to ensure his paperwork had been processed.

Tim is a native of Glasgow, Kentucky, but he now lives in Bowling Green. Besides his incessant golf and spontaneous travel, Tim enjoys following the University of Kentucky's basketball team. We at VUB have appreciated Tim's participation in the program and know he will prove himself a stellar college student.

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What's Up, Doc?

This is the first in a series of articles designed to help VUB participants who wish to enroll at Western. Doc is a VUB alumni who now serves as our VA work study student. He majors in Social Work. All advice given here is un-official and sanctioned only by the School of Hard Knocks, from which he holds a PhD.



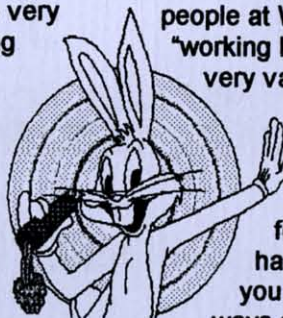
reetings fellow vets! Since being involved here at VUB, I have realized the opportunity

to pass on some of what I have learned about "going back to school." Each issue will contain a new obstacle and some possible solutions and helpful hints. Probably the biggest headache (or the first biggest headache) is paperwork. Admission forms, financial aid forms, transcripts and class scheduling. Believe me, except for Uncle Sam, nobody does paperwork like WKU. Everything must be in place by certain deadlines, and since they will vary from one person to another, depending on your situation, I won't try to cover them all here. But just keep in mind, the earlier you apply the better. All prospective students must apply to Western. The \$15 application fee is waived for VUB participants. Just make sure that your application goes through VUB channels, because the Admissions office makes no mention of this waiver (I blew 15 bucks). Application can be made anytime, but the sooner you get started, the sooner you will get into the system, and the university will inform you of anything else they need from you to get enrolled as a student.

If you are using GI bill money, a trip to see Mike Hills at the financial aid office should be scheduled. Mike handles all the VA and GI bill paperwork, and is a good source to information. If you are collecting a VA disability or pension, contact Raymond Hill (no relation to Mike) at the Veterans Affairs Office in Louisville. These two men have been

invaluable to me; both are very knowledgeable and are willing to help.

Kevin Burney in the Counseling Center in Potter Hall is also a good man to hook up with. Kevin is the liaison between Vet/Students and the VA. He can advise you regarding your course of study, what courses to take, university requirements, and what it takes to satisfy the VA. Kevin recently moved into this position when Dale Smith took a full time teaching position in the Social Work department. Of all the helpful folks on the Hill, Dale has provided me with the most in terms of good advice and support. Although he is no longer officially in his old position, it couldn't hurt to drop by the Social Work department in Grise Hall and introduce yourself. He is a great guy and is one of the few



people at WKU with a great amount of "working knowledge" which can be very valuable to you as a student.

These are just a few of the people who are in place to help you. Don't forget the crew at VUB also has access to the answers you may need, and we are always eager to help.

Remember what my dear old daddy used to say: "Going back to school is tough, but so is your mother's pot roast!"

Stay low,
Doc Faulkner

Next time: Financing Your College Education: Who's Gonna Pay for All This?

NOTE Doc will be conducting a workshop, "Survival on the Hill," soon. Watch for details.

Math and Science (continued from p.1)

I also had a great time with the initiative and would recommend the teachers I had to everyone. The university there is as large as WKU but with probably half the number of students, making for better learning conditions. And the staff! I can't say enough good things about these folks, because they really took great care of the veterans.

So, if you go, have fun. But don't take the courses lightly. They are meant for learning, so go to learn.

Applications are now available for the Math and Science Initiative in Arcata, California for the Summer 1995 term (June 17-July 28). The deadline for applications is April 30, 1995, but don't wait until it's too late. We will not only be glad to answer any questions you may have, but we'll also be glad to help you with the application process, as well. Ask anyone in the VUB office for information and applications.

THE TOPPER is published quarterly by the Veterans Upward Bound Project at Western Kentucky University. The activity which is the subject of this newsletter was supported in part by the U.S. Department of Education. However, the opinions expressed herein do not necessarily reflect the position or policy of the U.S. Department of Education and no official endorsement should be inferred.

Focus on Careers

One of the career information sources available through VUB is the Occupational Outlook Handbook. Published by the U.S. Department of Labor, this guide forecasts the future in various career fields and helps set a course of planning for the career of your choice.

According to the handbook, these are some of the fields which are expected to grow most between 1990 and 2005:

ELECTRICAL ENGINEERS

Though all the engineer fields should experience significant growth, computers and electronic communication make electrical engineering an especially promising career. A 34% rise in jobs is expected.

HOTEL MANAGERS

A 44% growth is anticipated for hotel management positions, as Americans continue to travel extensively for business and leisure. Opportunities are best for people with college degrees in hotel or restaurant management.

**Education is not received,
it is achieved.**

Ch...Ch...Changes

Notice any differences between this issue of The Topper and previous ones? The VUB newsletter has undergone a facelift, thanks in part to the new computer software donated by the Microsoft Corporation. These changes mean that The Topper should be more attractive and easier to read. If you have any ideas you'd like to see in future issues of this newsletter, let us know.

LICENSED PRACTICAL NURSES

A 42% growth in jobs is predicted for this field. Most medical careers look promising, but the aging American population creates a large demand for long-term health care options.

PARALEGALS

As all those lawyers call for help, this field is becoming increasingly important. It appears to be growing to meet the challenge. The OOH reports a whopping 85% more jobs expected between 1990 and 2005.

Any successful career requires advanced planning. If you would like more information about these or other career fields, stop by the VUB Office and look through our resource library.

New Faces

Here's some information about the faces new to the VUB office.

Davy Stone is the second Adult Education Specialist at VUB. He will be surfing around the office computers, as well as sharing the daytime instruction with Susan. He is originally from Clay, KY, but moved to Bowling Green in 1987. He is currently working toward an advanced degree in education.

Rick "Doc" Faulkner is the VA student worker at VUB, although he isn't a new face. Doc is a former student who is currently enrolled at Western. Doc's current duties include recruitment, as well as advising current participants who may be experiencing "roadblocks". Doc is a six year Coast Guard veteran who is currently studying social work. He is married, and recently became a father.

The Director's Desk

Veterans Upward Bound is in its third year of service at Western Kentucky University, and the staff has been working hard to ensure the program's continued growth. In honor of Veterans

Day, VUB hosted an open house for students and alumni. It was rewarding to hear from our graduates the positive experiences they had with VUB, but it was a pleasure to show off to them how far we've come.

Our student computer lab now houses eleven terminals, and the teaching staff has incorporated computer-assisted instruction into classes for more individualized learning and improved tracking and testing of student progress. And the growth continues: We were excited this fall to be one of thirty-seven TRIO programs nationwide selected for a partnership grant from the Microsoft Corporation and the NCEO Task Force on Technology and Education. A package of state-of-the-art CD-ROM software worth more than \$6,500 arrived in our office in November and will be available to students in the upcoming semester.

VUB offers a flexible schedule of classes in literature, composition, Spanish, math through pre-calculus, word-processing, and science with a lab. If you have not already registered with Martha for our January session, or if you know a veteran who would benefit from our educational services, please call us collect at 745-5310.



Important Numbers and Dates

Kentucky Center for Veterans Affairs, Louisville
(502) 595-4447
Military Records Branch, Frankfort
(502) 564-4883
Kentucky Veterans Center, Wilmore
(800) 928-4838
VA Regional Office, Louisville
(800) 827-1000
VA Medical Center, Louisville
(502) 895-3401
VA Medical Center, Nashville, TN
(615) 327-4751
American Legion, Louisville
(502) 582-5825
AMVETS, Louisville
(502) 582-5594
Disabled American Veterans, Louisville
(800) 333-1720
Military Order of the Purple Heart, Louisville
(502) 582-6926
Veterans of Foreign Wars, Louisville
(502) 582-6445
Vietnam Veterans of America
(606) 432-4953

January 24	Vets Program Trust Fund Board Meeting Military Affairs
February 14	Hospitalized Veterans Week (13-17 February)
March 25	Medal of Honor Day
April 9	National Former POW Recognition Day
May 19-21	Kentucky Vietnam Veterans Reunion Capital Plaza call: (502) 363-5296 or (502) 449-3113
May 20	Armed Forces Day
May 24	Rolling Thunder "Ride To The Wall"
May 30	Memorial Day

ADDRESS CHANGE REQUESTED

If the address listed below is not your correct address, we'd like to know. Just write to us at the address below with your new address, or call (collect) at (502) 745-5310.

THE TOPPER

Veterans Upward Bound
Western Kentucky University
1 Big Red Way
Bowling Green, KY 42101

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